

**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Tyler Hiatt of Lincoln High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hiatt is the third Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Hiatt as South Dakota's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in July, Hiatt joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2013-14 & 2014-15, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The state's returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 6-foot-3, 245-pound senior won the discus and shot put events at the 2019 Class AA outdoor state meet with personal-best marks in each. Hiatt won the discus by more than 13 feet, launching the apparatus 182 feet, 11 inches, which ranked as the nation's No. 63 mark among prep competitors last spring. An All-State offensive lineman for the Lincoln High football team last fall, he also ranked in the Top 100 nationally in 2019 with his career PR of 59-1.

A member of the Lincoln High Chamber Choir, Hiatt has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Tyler has put a great deal of work into not only being the best thrower in South Dakota, but also in the upper Midwest," said Jason Wagoner, head coach of Roosevelt High School. "He's very talented in both throws and it's been fun to watch him improve throughout his career."

Hiatt has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at North Dakota State University.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Hiatt joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Trevor Begeman (2017-18, Selby Area High School), Collin Brison (2016-17, Lincoln High School), Mason Hericks (2015-16, Watertown High School), Brennan Schmidt (2014-15, Freeman High School), and Jack Lembcke (2013-14, Roosevelt High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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